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been enclosed by a circular iron railing; but it is to be regretted that, from the perishable nature of the stone, this ornament to the Park exhibits various symptoms of decay: while the railing keeps off the hand of man, it cannot keep off the hand of time, which is fast obliterating its ornaments.

BRITISH BOTANY.*

To those interested in the prosperity of Ireland, it must afford pleasure to observe the very superior manner in which books are now brought out by several of our Dublin publishers, when compared with those printed in the metropolis a few years since. Not only would the little work before us do credit to the first London house, as to the manner of its getting up, but to this it adds the much greater excellence of real value in the matter which it contains. Unlike many similar works published in London, which are mere bookselling speculations, made up by persons ignorant of the science of which they profess to treat, the work before us is evidently the production of a practical botanist. The flowers, of which there are twenty-eight plates in the volume, are very elegant, both as to the sketching and colouring, and have all the appearance of being accurately drawn from nature.

Although possessing these various recommendations, the author unassumingly informs us, that the work "is not intended for the study of those already learned in the science of Botany; but merely as an introduction for beginners, and has been compiled simply with that view. The writer has imagined that the easiest method of explaining any subject, is to represent it in a familiar dialogue, as being a less tedious manner of conveying information than a continued description, and has therefore been induced to offer the work in its present form."

The following extracts from the early chapters will sufficiently show the nature of the work:

"MISS HENLEY.—Since you are so impatient to begin, Sophia, I will endeavour to explain this rather difficult science to you, as well as I am able. Botany is that branch of science which treats of the structure and functions of vegetables: the systematical arrangement and denomination of their several kinds; and their peculiar properties and uses. Vegetables are organized, supported by air and food, endowed with life, and subject to death as well as animals.

"MARY.—Plants appear to be extremely numerous; has it ever been ascertained how many different species there are?

"MISS H.—The number of plants at present known is upwards of sixty thousand; not including those belonging to New Holland.

"SOPHIA.—How many are supposed to be natives of Great Britain?

"MISS H.—About two thousand: nearly one half of which are mosses and lichens, &c.

"SOPHIA.—How many principal parts does a flower consist of?

"MISS H.—Seven; which are, the calyx, corolla, stamen, pistil, pericarp, or seed-vessel, seed and receptacle. The first four parts properly belong to the flower; the last three to the seed.

"MARY.—What parts of a plant ought we to be first acquainted with?

"MISS H.—The flower and fruit; these consist, as I have already told you, of seven parts, which are particularly requisite to be understood, as the classification of plants, according to the Linnæan system, is founded on them.

"But you will understand my explanation better by seeing all the different parts yourselves. Here is the convolvulus arvensis, (small bind weed,) which will serve to show you the stamens and pistils, though if we could have procured a larger flower, it would have been better, certainly. However, as I do not perceive any other near me better adapted to my purpose, I will proceed to separate the different parts. This green part, which is situated im-

mediately beneath the blossom, is called the calyx or flower-cup: its chief use is to enclose and protect the other parts of the flower: it sometimes consists of two or more leaves, as in the rose; and is sometimes tubular, as in the primrose.

"MARY.—Is there more than one kind of calyx?

"MISS H.—Yes, there are seven kinds of calyces. The first, perianth or calyx, commonly so called, the most general, is that which is contiguous to, or actually makes a part of the flower, but is not always present: this is the kind I have already described as belonging to the rose, and also to the carnation. Hemlock, carrot, and other plants of the same character, have what is usually called a calyx, but what Dr. Smith considers floral leaves or bractæas, situated remote from the flower: this is called involucre. Daffodil, iris or flag, and crocus, before expanding, are shut up in a sheath-like covering, which bursts at the sides, called a sheath. Grasses are furnished with a peculiar chaff-like substance, or glume; a term also applied to the corolla of grasses. This calyx is denominated a glume. The minute, but curious tribes of mosses, have also their calyx, which, from being placed on the top of the flower, like a hood, is called calyptra.

"The calyx of the mushroom tribe, is called volva.

"MARY.—What part of the flower is the corolla?

"MISS H.—The corolla consists of those more delicate and dilated, generally more coloured leaves, which are always internal with respect to the calyx, and constitute the chief beauty of a flower. This pretty pink part of the convolvulus which I hold in my hand is the corolla. In the rose, the corolla is red and fragrant; in the violet, purple; and in the primrose, yellow. The leaves which compose the corolla, are called petals. In many plants, as, for example, this convolvulus, the corolla is formed of one single leaf or petal, and is then called one-petalled, or monopetalous; in the rose, which consists of more than one petal, the corolla is many-petalled, or polypetalous. The upper part of a monopetalous corolla, is termed the limb; the lower, or contracted portion, the tube. The base of each petal in a polypetalous corolla, is the claw; the expanded part is the border; but we will have another conversation about corollas to-morrow.

"SOPHIA.—Will you explain what the stamen is?

"MISS H.—The stamen is placed immediately within the corolla; at least, generally so; or, if there is no corolla, within the calyx. It is composed of two parts, a thread-like portion, or filament, which supports the upper part, or anther; this, when ripe, bursts and discharges a fine dust or pollen; on this essentially depends the fertilizing principle.

"MARY.—What is the pistil?

"MISS H.—The pistil is commonly in the centre of the flower, and consists of three parts, which are, the germen, the style, and the stigma. The germen is the pedestal or base of the pistil, generally of a roundish shape, though sometimes slender; its office is to contain the seeds which are not yet arrived at maturity; the style is the pillar, or thread-like part, which supports the stigma, which is the highest part of the pistil.

"SOPHIA.—Is not some part of the flower called the nectary?

"MISS H.—Yes, the nectary is sometimes a part of the pistil, sometimes separate from it; from being supposed to produce the honey or nectar, the term nectary is applied to it. Every singular appearance in a flower, which is not calyx, corolla, stamen, nor pistil, has the general name of nectary. I will take the larkspur as an example. This has no calyx; the corolla has five differently formed petals; the upper one ends in a spire-like projection; it has, also, another peculiarity, which is a somewhat divided petal-like portion, with a horn or spur, projecting and enclosing the spur of the petal; this is the nectary.

"MARY.—How may we distinguish the nectary in different flowers?

"MISS H.—In monopetalous flowers, as the dead nettle, the tube of the corolla contains, and probably secretes the honey, without any evident nectary. Sometimes it is a production or elongation of the corolla, as in the violet; sometimes also of the calyx, as in the garden nasturtium, whose calyx partakes frequently of the nature of the

* British Botany familiarly explained and described, in a Series of Dialogues, illustrated with Twenty-eight coloured Plates, drawn from Nature. Dublin; W. F. Wakeman.

petals. There are various kinds of nectaries, which you will be able to distinguish when you become better acquainted with the study of botany.

"MARY.—What is the pericarp, or seed-vessel?"

"MISS H.—It is the case or covering of the seed, and is the external part of the germen, come to maturity. There are two different kinds of pericarps, which are of various shapes; globular, as in the poppy; long, as the pod of the pea; pulpy, with a stone in the middle, as in the plum; pulpy, containing seeds enclosed in a case, as in the pear; juicy, and containing seeds which have only an external case, as in the gooseberry. Filbert and hazel nuts have a kernel enclosed in a hard shell, called a nut. The fir-trees produce their seeds in a singular kind of fruit, called a cone; and there is another species of pericarp, not very common, which is a membranous seed-vessel, opening lengthwise on one side only, without an apparent suture, which is called a follicle.

"MARY.—What is the receptacle?"

"MISS H.—The receptacle or base, is that part which supports and connects the whole. In some plants it is very conspicuous, particularly in the artichoke, and is that part of it which is eaten. In the cuckoo-pint, the receptacle is elongated into a club-shaped body or *spadix*, having the anthers and pistils set round it.

"MARY.—Will you explain some of the uses of the corolla?"

"MISS H.—As a protection to the tender and important parts within, especially from wet; its use in many cases is obvious, but not in all. It probably fulfils some important office to the essential parts of the flower, with regard to air, and especially light. It not only presents itself in a remarkable manner to the sun-beams, frequently closing or drooping when they are withdrawn, but it is so peculiarly distinguished by beauty and brilliancy of colour, that we must suppose its functions somewhat different from those of the leaves, even with regard to light itself. Dr. Darwin calls the corolla the lungs of stamens and pistils, and with great probability, for they abound in air-vessels.

"You have, of course, often observed, Sophia, the variety there is in the roots of different plants.

"SOPHIA.—Yes; and I was going to ask you to describe some of them to us.

"MISS H.—That I shall have great pleasure in doing. The root consists of two parts—caudex, the body of the root, and radicle, the fibre. The latter only is essential, being the part which imbibes nourishment.

"MARY.—Of what use is the root?"

"MISS H.—The use of the root, in general, is twofold; to fix the plant in a commodious situation, and to derive nourishment for its support. This part is, therefore, commonly plunged deeply into the ground, having, indeed, a natural tendency to grow downwards. Roots are either of annual, biennial, or perennial duration.

"MARY.—Will you explain those terms to me?"

"MISS H.—Annual roots belong to plants which live only one year, or rather one summer, as barley; biennial, to such as are produced one season, and, living through the ensuing winter, produce flowers and fruit the following summer, as fox-glove, and several species of mullein; and perennial, to those which live and blossom, through many successive seasons, to an indefinite period, as trees, and many herbaceous plants. The term biennial is applied to any plant that is produced one year and flowers another, provided it flowers but once.

"MARY.—Why is the autumn considered the best time of the year for transplanting? I wanted to take up a rose-tree out of my garden last summer, and the gardener said it would injure it.

"MISS H.—Because in the winter or torpid season of the year, the powers of the root lie dormant; and the autumn and winter is, therefore, the proper time for their transplantation. After they have begun to throw out new fibres, it is generally dangerous, or even fatal, to remove them. Very young annual plants, as they form new fibres with great facility, survive transplantation tolerably well, provided they receive abundant supplies of water by the leaves till the root has recovered itself.

"SOPHIA.—I think, Miss Henley, there appears to be

much greater variety in the leaves of plants, than in either the corolla or the root; will you describe the different kinds, as I suppose each has some peculiar appellation?"

"MISS H.—Folium, the leaf, is a very general, but not universal, organ of vegetables, of an expanded form, presenting a much greater surface to the atmosphere than all the other parts of the plant together.

"MARY.—The colour is always green—is it not?"

"MISS H.—Almost universally so; and its internal substance pulpy and vascular, sometimes very succulent; and the upper and under surfaces generally differ in hue, as also in kind or degree of roughness.

"SOPHIA.—Leaves are very ornamental to plants, both from their colour and the beauty of their forms.

"MISS H.—They are of great importance to the plant which bears them, as they contribute to its health and increase."

In a similar way the author proceeds, and in the most familiar, pleasing, and instructive manner, describes every tree and plant at present known in the British islands, from the lordly pine to the modest primrose. It is altogether a work deserving of encouragement.

CANADA IN THE YEARS 1832, 1833, AND 1834.*

As a work published in Ireland, we notice the above; but being ourselves the publishers, we deem it unfair to say more for it than what we have already stated in an addenda to the author's preface:—

Advertisement by the Author—"The writer of the following pages has resided in Canada, chiefly in 'the Bush,' for the last two years; he has had some experience of the life of a Settler, and has seen something of the inducements and the advantages the country offers to such. Extrinsic circumstances have caused his return to Ireland, which he does not again intend to leave for America; and believing himself thereby free from any unfair bias, he has written a few of the most prominent remarks on the subject, his experience has suggested, which he now offers to the better classes of those who intend emigrating thither the ensuing Spring."

"Aware that the British public have, in many instances, been made the dupes of individuals interested in 'Emigration speculations,' by the publication of works calculated to mislead them; as the gentleman who is the author of the following pages does not wish his name to appear in the title, I feel called upon thus to authenticate the work, which may be relied on as written by the individual circumstanced as stated in the foregoing paragraph, and giving a fair and impartial statement of things as they are at the present moment in British America. I may, I trust, be allowed to add, without any charge of unfairness to others, that I have been induced to publish the little work, from the conviction that it contains much important practical information, and many hints for persons intending to emigrate, not to be met with in any other work yet published.

"P. DIXON HARDY."

THE TROSACHS.

A SONNET BY WORDSWORTH.

There's not a nook within this solemn pass
But were an apt confessional for one
Taught by his summer spent, his autumn gone,
That life is but a tale of morning grass,
Withered at eve. From scenes of art that chase
That thought away, turn, and with watchful eyes
Feed it 'mid Nature's old felicities,
Rocks, rivers, and smooth lakes more clear than glass
Untouched, unbreathed upon. Thrice happy guest,
If from a golden perch of aspen spray,
(October's workmanship to rival May)
The pensive warbler of the ruddy breast
This moral sweeten by a heaven-taught lay,
Lulling the year, with all its cares, to rest.

* Canada in the years 1832, 1833, and 1834, containing important Information and Instructions to Persons intending to emigrate thither in 1835. By an Ex-Settler, who resided chiefly in "The Bush" for the last Two Years. Dublin: P. Dixon Hardy. Sold by all Booksellers.